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ABSTRACT

This resource guide, for teachers and students in the upper elementary and middle school grades, has been developed in response to the nationwide interest in asking schools to play an active role in preparing students to become informed and responsible citizens. The guide is divided into seven sections, one for each character trait: Caring, Civic Virtue and Citizenship, Honesty, Justice and Fairness, Respect, Responsibility, and Trustworthiness. Each section begins with a definition and discussion of its respective trait. This is followed by student activities, which can be used with lesson plans for history, civics, literature, reading, or science. The activities include reflection and individual writing, small cooperative group projects, whole-class discussion, homework, community-based/service learning projects, assessment, and extension for student proficiency. Following the activities are several readings from Cobblestone Publishing magazines. Each article or group of articles has a corresponding page of reading comprehension questions. Appendix A contains a selected and annotated list of readings that support character education, Appendix B outlines principles of effective character education, and Appendix C lists helpful organizations and publications. (BT)

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